



**REMARKS BY THE MAKERERE UNIVERSITY DEPUTY VICE-CHANCELLOR,**

**PROFESSOR BARNABAS NAWANGWE,**

**DURING THE RESILIENTAFRICA NETWORK (RAN) MAKERERE UNIVERSITY  
INNOVATIONS EXHIBITION**

**VENUE: MAKERERE UNIVERSITY MAIN HALL**

**DATE: 14<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2014**

**TIME: 9:00am-1:00pm**

- **Prof. William Bazeyo, Dean School of Public Health and Chief of Party RAN**
- **Members of Staff of ResilientAfrica Network**
- **Members of Staff Makerere University**
- **The Gallant Exhibitors**
- **Faculty here present**
- **Students**
- **The Media**
- **Distinguished Guests Ladies and Gentlemen:**

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On behalf of Makerere University, I thank you all for honouring this occasion and making it very meaningful to our faculty, students as well as the entire community. I warmly welcome my colleague and friend Prof. William Bazeyo from the College of Health Sciences- School of Public Health. Thank you for loving Makerere University and always working hard to continuously greatly contribute to the strong research arm of this institution. It is such programs like ResilientAfrica Network (RAN) that have enormously contributed to Makerere University's great achievements including being 4<sup>th</sup> best University in the whole of Africa. Faculty, students and the community benefit a lot from such initiatives.

In a special way, we welcome the different exhibitors faculty, students and the community. Thank you for the innovativeness and strive to contribute to strengthening resilience in the African communities through innovative solutions.

I also recognise the presence of other dignitaries. Your presence shows the passion you have for both the young and innovative people in our country Uganda.

RAN is proudly led by Makerere University (School of Public Health) as one of the seven development labs within the USAID-funded Higher Education Solutions Network (HESN). It is a partnership of 20 African Universities in 16 countries focused on strengthening the capacities of vulnerable communities to with stand natural and man-made shocks and stresses. One of the core objectives of RAN, is to strengthen resilience at the individual, household, and community levels to natural, man-made stresses and shocks through innovative technologies and approaches to development, which will be identified, incubated, tested, scaled and evaluated through the RAN in collaboration with its partners.

Today, we are gathered here to witness, acknowledge and recognize the achievements of our students and staff members who work tirelessly to develop innovative solutions to respond to the challenges in this country and beyond. The

innovations being exhibited today are in the fields of climate change, business, health, education, and agriculture among others. Thank you for demonstrating competence to come up with several innovations that are relevant to African community needs.

These innovations are in line with our strategic core function of Research and Innovations whose goal is to;

- Consolidate and augment the research profile of Makerere University,
- Enhance transformation and utilisation of knowledge, research and innovations and
- Respond to the chronic African community challenges in an effort to strengthen resilience

This is one of the events directly aimed at contributing to the theme **Achieving Vision 2040 through ICT: Innovations to Accelerate Uganda's Social-Economic Transformation**. It is therefore evident that Makerere University fully supports the Government of Uganda in its attempt to attain social transformation and development of this country.

We have focused on availing high quality learning and teaching resources, and are trying to improve the quality of the learning environment and services to all our stakeholders. This will go a long way in improving the research status of our nation.

Today, we are also using this opportunity to continue with mentorship to faculty, students and the community at large so that as Africans they can effectively and efficiently participate in the development process of this country let alone developing solutions to African challenges. RAN will also identify some of these innovations to support to scale through its Resilience Innovation Acceleration Program, which is also being officially launched today.

The spirit of innovation and resilience exhibited by the students and staff today highlights their entrepreneurial expertise. Makerere University strives to instil in the students the ability to be able to be job creators other than job seekers. ***"African challenges require African developed solutions"***.

We also appreciate Government's support to Makerere University through the Presidential Initiative for Science and Technology. United States Agency for International Development Initiative's (USAID) continued backing to this institution cannot go unmentioned.

**To push forth RAN's agenda in supporting some innovations to scale, it is now my great pleasure and honour to officially launch the RAN Resilience Innovation Acceleration Program.**

Once again, ladies and gentlemen, thank you for honouring our invitation. Let us all join in building ***"Solutions through Innovation"*** as we ***"Build for the Future"***